

Application No. 09/761,112
Amendment dated May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A biometric-controlled access-control ~~system~~power gate controlling a power flow from a power source to an electrically powered device, comprising:
an ~~electronic device adapted for operation using power from a power source, said power source energizing a circuit of said electronic the device energized by the power flow~~ for enabling a startup procedure of a processor of said electronic the device;
a biometric-controlled switch, coupled to said circuit between said ~~the~~ power source and said processor, for enabling said energizing of said circuit responsive to an assertion of a biometric activation signal; and
a biometric reader coupled to said biometric-controlled switch, comprising:
a memory for storing a biometric signature;
a biometric sensor, coupled to said memory, for discerning a biometric profile; and
a verifier, coupled to said biometric sensor and to said memory, for asserting said biometric activation signal when said biometric profile matches said biometric signature wherein ~~said electronic the device~~ is inoperable from ~~said the~~ power source until said assertion of said biometric activation signal.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A method for ~~controlling access to~~power gating an electronic device powered from a power source, comprising:
discerning a biometric profile of a prospective user of the electronic device; and
comparing said biometric profile to a stored biometric signature of an authorized user of the electronic device; and thereafter
asserting a biometric activation signal to a biometric-controlled switch

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when said prospective user is an authorized user, said biometric-controlled switch interposed between ~~a~~the power source ~~for the electronic device~~ and a circuit of the electronic device for enabling a startup procedure of said electronic device such that said biometric-controlled switch interrupts power to said circuit when said activation signal is not asserted wherein the startup procedure is inoperable from ~~said~~the power source until said assertion of said biometric activation signal.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A biometric power gating system for controlling power from a power source to a circuit, comprising:
an electronic device including the circuit operable from the power provided from ~~a~~the power source;
a biometric-controlled switch, coupled to said electronic device between the power source and the circuit, for gating ~~said~~the power from ~~said~~the power source responsive to a biometric activation signal;
and
a biometric reader for asserting said biometric activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature wherein said electronic device is inoperable from ~~said~~the power from ~~said~~the power source until said biometric activation signal is asserted.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said biometric signature includes a fingerprint.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said biometric signature includes a retinal pattern.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said electronic device includes a portable electronic device.

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Claim 7 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 6 wherein said portable electronic device includes a personal data assistant (PDA).

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 6 wherein said portable electronic device includes a laptop computer.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said the power source includes a battery.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said the power source includes a power supply.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said the power source includes a direct power supply.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is integrated into said electronic device.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is integrated into said the power source.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is integrated into said biometric reader.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is a state device for storing an operational mode.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 15 wherein said operational mode maintains said gating of said power from said the power source after receiving an asserted activation signal.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 16 wherein said operational mode is reset to disable ~~said~~ the power from ~~said~~ the

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power source when said electronic device is inactivated pending reassertion of said activation signal.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said electronic device includes a plurality of BIOS routines and wherein said switch selectively activates one or more of said BIOS routines responsive to said activation signal.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The biometric system of claim 18 wherein said biometric reader discriminates between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifies ~~identifying~~ a particular one of said users.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 19 wherein said switch selectively activates said one or more said BIOS routine responsive to said particular one user with said switch activating a different one or more of said BIOS routines for said first user than activated for said second user.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said electronic device enables access to a set of resources responsive to an authentication and wherein said switch provides said authentication responsive to said activation signal.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 21 wherein said biometric reader discriminates between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifies a particular one of said users.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The biometric system of claim 22 wherein said switch selectively enables access to one or more resources of said set of resources responsive to said particular one user with said

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switch signaling enablement of a different one or more resources for said first user than enabled for said second user.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A biometric-mediated ~~access~~ power gating method, comprising:

- a) establishing a biometric profile from a prospective user;
- b) comparing said biometric profile to a biometric signature;
- c) asserting a biometric activation signal when said profile and said signature match; and
- d) gating, responsive to said biometric activation signal, power from a power source to an electronic device using a biometric switch coupled to said biometric activation signal to enable operation of said electronic device wherein said electronic device is inoperable from said power source until said assertion of said biometric activation signal and wherein said biometric access control is disposed between said power source and said electronic device to control said power therethrough.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The method of claim of 24 wherein said gating step d) operation enablement includes initiating a boot sequence of said electronic device.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A biometric-mediated ~~access~~ power gating method, comprising:

- a) asserting a biometric activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature; and
- b) gating, responsive to said biometric activation signal, power from a power source to an electronic device operable from said power using a biometric-controlled switch operably disposed between said power source and said electronic device wherein said electronic

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device is inoperable from said power source until said assertion of said biometric activation signal.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said biometric signature includes a fingerprint.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said biometric signature includes a retinal pattern.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said electronic device includes portable electronic device.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 29 wherein said portable electronic device includes a personal data assistant (PDA).

Claim 31 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 29 wherein said portable electronic device includes a laptop computer.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said power source includes a battery.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said power source includes a power supply.

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Claim 34 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said power source includes a direct power.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is integrated into said electronic device.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is integrated into said power source.

Claim 37 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is integrated into said biometric reader.

Claim 38 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is a state device for storing an operational mode.

Claim 39 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 38 further comprising maintaining said operational mode said gating of said power from said power source after receiving an asserted activation signal.

Claim 40 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 39 further comprising resetting said operational mode to disable said power from said power source when said electronic device is inactivated pending a reassertion of said activation signal.

Claim 41 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said electronic device includes a plurality

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of BIOS routines, said method further comprising activating selectively one or more of said BIOS routines responsive to said activation signal.

Claim 42 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 41 further comprising a biometric reader for asserting said activation signal responsive to said verification of said biometric signature, the method further comprising discriminating between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifying a particular one of said users.

Claim 43 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 42 further comprising activating selectively said one or more said BIOS routine responsive to said particular one user wherein a different one or more of said BIOS routines are activated for said first user than are activated for said second user.

Claim 44 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 26 wherein said electronic device enables access to a set of resources responsive to an authentication and wherein said switch provides said authentication responsive to said activation signal.

Claim 45 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 44 further comprising discriminating between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifying a particular one of said users.

Claim 46 (Currently amended): The biometric-mediated power gating access method of claim 45 further comprising selectively enabling access to one or more resources of said set of resources responsive to said

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particular one user with a different one or more resources enabled for said first user than are enabled for said second user.

Claim 47 (Currently amended): A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying program instructions for ~~powering~~ power gating an electronic device when executed using a computing system, the executed program instructions executing a method, the method comprising:

- a) asserting a biometric activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature; and
- b) gating, responsive to said biometric activation signal, power from a power source to the electronic device operable from said power using a biometric-controlled switch operably disposed between said power source and the electronic device.

Claim 48 (Currently amended): A propagated signal on which is carried computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computing system performs a power gating method, the method comprising:

- a) asserting an activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature; and
- b) gating, responsive to said activation signal, power from a power source to the electronic device operable from said power using a switch operably disposed between said power source and said electronic device wherein said electronic device is inoperable from said power source until said assertion of said biometric activation signal.

Claim 49 (Currently amended): A biometric-apparatus for gating power, comprising:

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means, responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature, for asserting a biometric activation signal to enable a power source; and means , responsive to said biometric activation signal, for gating power from said power source to an electronic device operable from said power using a biometric-controlled switch operably disposed between said power source and said electronic device wherein said electronic device is inoperable from said power source until said assertion of said biometric activation signal.